

Readfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Present: Bruce Hunter, Jerry Bley, Marty Hanish, Stephanie Donaldson, Andy Walsh  
Excused: Greg Durgin  
Guests: Harold Burnett (Town Forester), Jaron Shaw (Town Forest abutter), Tim Sniffen, Bob Mohlar

RCC Meeting Minutes – Jerry B. motioned to approve the February 8, 2022 RCC meeting minutes with revisions; seconded by Bruce H.

**New Business**

Damage to Shaw Property, Belz Road – Harold Burnett (Town Forester) and Jaron Shaw (Belz Rd. abutter to Town Forest) spoke regarding damage to a portion of the town forest access road near the Belz Road gate during recent tree harvesting activities. The damage was caused by the coming/going of heavy equipment over approximately 200 ft. of the access road that is located on property owned by Mr. Shaw. Wet road conditions likely contributed to some of the damage. Mr. Shaw was also concerned by the logger's behavior and other actions following comments about the property damage by Mr. Shaw. Mr. Burnett indicated that he was satisfied with the quality of tree harvesting work by Mr. Hayford. Access road and trail repairs (Center Lane and access road to log landing area) will be done by Alfred Lucas. The repair work will include grading, fill (as needed), and seeding. Fill will be underlain by geotextile fabric for soil stability. Mr. Shaw will have an opportunity to inspect repairs on his property to ensure they meet expectations.

Review of Fairgrounds Concept Sketch – RCC members commented on a concept sketch for the Fairgrounds (dated 2/24/2022) by RS Leonard. A. Walsh asked if any alternative layouts for the new ballfield and amenities were considered by the landscape architect. Jerry B. indicated that the only plans are RS Leonard's concept sketch and the proposed ballfield plan by Main-Land. Jerry B. questioned whether the concession stand could be moved from the #5 location on the concept sketch next to the proposed basketball court to a location closer to the ballfields (#7 or #9). Jerry B. stated that RS Leonard suggested that a "pollinator garden" could be sited in the field between the west swale and the new ballfield (south of #7). The pollinator garden would feature a variety of native plants and be managed by periodic mowing. Marty H. suggested that infrastructure incorporated into the design, such as walking trails, will help secure the remaining area from future development. Marty H. also stated that the budget for project must consider future management and maintenance needs for the proposed increase in recreational development on the property. It was also recommended that management prohibit the use of pesticides/herbicides on the property. A. Walsh recommended that wetlands north of the existing parking lot and adjacent tree line be fully delineated to determine wetland impacts from whatever concept plan is chosen. A. Walsh also raised a concern regarding how much tree removal would be required by the plan. Tim S.

suggested that RCC offer a favorable opinion of the RS Leonard's ballfield concept plan to the Select Board with the condition that the extent of wetland impacts be determined. Bruce H. suggested that a site visit be scheduled within the next couple weeks to assess the extent of wetlands and drainage, especially near the proposed basketball court.

Marty H. gave RCC a summary of previous budget committee discussions relevant to the Fairgrounds development proposal. He suggested at the budget meeting that any surplus funds in the project budget be used to replace lost conservation values. Marty H. also provided an update on the town's Open Space fund. Funds from the OS plan could be used as seed money (supplemented by grant dollars) for fee or easement purchases of land for conservation purposes. Tim S. reminded RCC that the town has an Open Space Plan that was approved by the town in 2006.

Town Bird Walk – Tim S. is organizing a public bird walk in early to mid-May and is looking for potential local birders to lead the outing. The walk will be scheduled for two hours (give or take); site location to be determined.

### **Old Business**

Vernal Pool Project – Bruce H. will contact Aram Calhoun to schedule a date to discuss the Maine vernal pool Special Area Management Plan (SAMP), which is an alternative mitigation tool for vernal pools impacted by development.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Walsh on November 6, 2022